Chief Secretary or the Director of Food Supplies who will be always prepared to give exact figures. Government rely upon the members of the Legislature in keeping that information absolutely confidential. But Government cannot publish those figures.

Then I find that there has been a certain amount of misconception because queries have been put with reference to the Anchal Bill. In paragraph 18 of the Financial Secretary's budget speech it is mentioned that it is proposed to double the rate of anchal cards and covers. At present we propose to increase the rate to 8 cash for cards and one chuckram for covers. That is our proposal.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS.

PRESIDENT: I have received notices of 11 adjournment motions. I have absolutely no objection to these being admitted for discussion. I may, however, say at once that most of them relate to food shortage, distribution of food etc. It cannot be gainsaid that the matter is of public importance. I have no objection to admit all the 11 motions and to give time for discussing all of them. But that would involve a serious infringement or curtailment of the time available to the House for the Budget. As an alternative, I am prepared to call upon those honourable members who have sent in the adjournment motions to speak first because of the urgency of their subjects. If that would answer the case there is no need for further discussion.

The following is the adjournment motion by Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai:

> "I beg leave to move that the business of the House be adjourned for discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the serious situation brought about by the complete destruction of the paddy cultivation in Central and North Travancore, due to the unprecedented and continuous floods, and also the indispensable necessity of affording suitable relief to the agriculturists of the affected areas,".

This is, of course, very important if it is a fact. But, nevertheless it is not a question for discussion, by adjournment motion at this stage for Government are supposed to be the owners of every grain of paddy. There is no need for any complaint that on account of the complete destruction of paddy cultivation there is a loss of crop which would belong to any owner in the State, for, the Government are taking over all the rice. I mean we have come to the conclusion deliberately that half measures are no longer possible, that there should be a complete purchase of every grain of rice, paddy and tapioca within the State. We shall hand over to the landlord only a portion of the crop, whatever we consider to be necessary for his reasonable requirements and take the balance. We take the whole of the avilable paddy or rice in the State. So the question of the destruction of paddy cultivation does not arise.

Mr. Narayana Kurup has given notice of four or five adjournment motions. One of them is to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance *viz.*, "the panic distress, difficulty and loss experienced by

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the agriculturists of Kuttanad by the recent orders of Government and its officers, in the matter of purchase, collection, storing and issuing permits to store paddy, and in the matter of transport of paddy from pakuthy to pakuthy in the very same taluk and in the matter of fixing rations in different rates in different places, and to suggest means to avoid difficulties" Hereafter all the paddy will be Government property and Government will be responsible for transport. Another motion is with regard to "the distress and starvation experienced by the people of the State, especially the rural folks, due to inadequate and irregular supply of food materials." That is a very important matter and it may well form the subject of a full-dress debate during the general discussion of the budget. But if the honourable members want to have the adjournment motion discussed, I have no objection. Another motion is to increase the salary of the low paid officers of the State. When people are not able to make both ends meet with the 10 or 15 rupees they get as their pay, Government consider that it is absolutely necessary to give them some increase.

Another honourable member Mr. Dominic Joseph has given notice of a motion to discuss the serious situation caused by the shortage of foodstuffs in the State. The shortage of foodstuffs in the State is not so great as the shortage of transport facilities in the State. Unless Government can have transport facilities, how is that shortage to be improved? Foodstuffs sufficient to meet the requirements of the State are not produced in the State. There is no doubt that the Government of India are aware that for the next three months if we do not get all the rice necessary we shall have to starve; and we have said so to the Government of India, in order that steps may be taken for not stopping work on tea, rubber, and coffee estates or for preventing public workshops from not functioning. We cannot put it more strongly than that. Still, if the honourable member wants to move the motion, I will allow it.

In taking paddy, provision will only be made for seeds and Government will retain every grain in their hands. There will be no quota hereafter. The situation has given rise to difficulties and hardships.

Now I am asking the honourable members for general information whether these adjournment motions should be taken up for discussion individually. If the honourable members want to discuss them one by one I shall give time up to 11 days;—otherwise I shall give them time during the general discussion.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: In the circumstances, my adjournment motion relating to the panic, distress, difficulties and loss experienced by the agriculturists of Kuttanad by the recent orders of Government and its officers, in the matter of purchase, collection, storing and issuing permits to store for use, of paddy and in the matter of transport of paddy from pakuthy to pakuthy etc., may be moved.

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PRESIDENT: Does anybody take objection?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: I object to the motion.

The question whether the motion may be taken up for consideration was put to vote, and as only 12 members rose in their seats, the motion was declared lost.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I rise to a point of order. Is it right to ask any individual member whether there is any objection?

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I say, Sir, I was first to object?

PRESIDENT: At the time of the general discussion I shall give the fullest opportunity for speaking to every honourable member who has given notice of adjournment motions. Each member will be called upon to speak. Of course there are certain other formalities. The Deputy President will be called upon first, then the leaders of the organised parties will be called. After that the honourable members who have given notice of adjournment motions will be called in their order to speak.

MESSAGES FROM THE SRI CHITRA STATE COUNCIL.

SECRETARY: Sir, I beg to report that the following Messages have been received from the Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council:—

1. "Under Rule 42 of the Travancore Legislative Rules, I am directed to inform you that the Sri Chitra State Council, at its meeting held on the 4th June 1943, agreed without any amendment to the following Bills which were passed by the Sri Mulam Assembly on the 31st May 1943 and the 1st June 1943:—

(i) The Travancore Registration Act (Amendment) Bill.
(ii) The Abkari Act (Amendment) Bill.
(iii) The Travancore Credit Bank Act (Amendment) Bill.
(iv) The Travancore Maternity Benefit Bill."

2. "I am directed to inform you that at the meeting of the Sri Chitra State Council held on the 5th June 1943, the Council has concurred in the motion of the Sri Mulam Assembly that the Travancore Disposition of Property Bill should be committed to a Joint Committee of the Sri Chitra State Council and the Sri Mulam Assembly."

BILLS ASSENTED TO BY HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA.

SECRETARY: Sir, I beg to report that the following Bills have received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja:—

(i) The Travancore Credit Bank Act (Amendment) Bill.
(ii) The Travancore Maternity Benefit Bill.
(iii) The Travancore Registration Act (Amendment) Bill.
(iv) The Abkari Act (Amendment) Bill.

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